

## EDITORIAL.

THE COMING MEETING of the American Association for the Advancement of Science is to be one of the most important of recent years so far as botanists are concerned. For that reason, if not for the pleasure of meeting other botanists and reading and hearing interesting papers, there ought to be a large attendance of botanists. The meeting is to be held in the city of Rochester, N. Y., from Aug. 17th to 24th. Reduced rates, one and one-third fare, will be granted on the usual certificate plan on all the railroads of the Central Traffic Association. The University of Rochester opens its buildings to the sections, and the usual receptions and excursions are announced.

Of foremost interest to botanists will be the proposed division of section F into two, and the formation of section G, of botany, leaving F for zoology. This question is to be discussed and settled at this meeting. In case the section is divided, the status of the Botanical Club is to be considered.

It is probable also that the proposed botanical congress in connection with the World's Fair will come before the section for discussion. The Committee which was asked by the World's Fair Auxiliary to take steps to organize such a congress recently prepared a circular letter to the botanists of the country which they vainly tried to have issued as it was prepared. It was only after long delay that it was issued at all, and on its appearance the members of the Committee were nearly as much surprised at its contents as those to whom it is addressed must be. Although the Committee may hope for some information through this inflated circular, they will expect to ascertain more of the temper of the botanists toward this scheme at the coming A. A. A. S. meeting.

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ONE OF OUR good friends writes: "I wish that the less ponderous and profound botanists were not so 'offish' in sending contributions to the GAZETTE. I like to have the work of the editors more appreciated and not sunk out of sight by over-weighty articles. . . . The *Bulletin* makes me swear . . . ; and the GAZETTE, alas, puts me to sleep!" We almost envy the *Bulletin* this distinction; anything but being prosy! Yet it is with a clear conscience that the editors print this accusation against the "less ponderous and profound botanists;" it does not lie against the editors.

We have so often urged the "small fry" (as another friend calls this class in which we all claim to rank) to send notes and items regarding their work, that we are blameless. Not only has the invitation been pressed, but the most ample provision has been made for these shorter articles.

When the departments of the GAZETTE were differentiated, "Briefer Articles" was established to receive communications of less than two pages. Later "Open Letters" was provided for those who chose to put items of interest, discussion or criticism into this form. And for the briefest, "Notes and News" is always waiting.

The GAZETTE does not print all MSS. which are sent to it. But we can truthfully say that no communication was ever rejected because it was too short or would interest only amateurs. On the contrary we welcome the notes by amateurs for amateurs, and lament the decrease of "briefer articles."

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## CURRENT LITERATURE.

### The Myxomycetes of eastern Iowa.

The leading paper of the latest number of the *Bulletin* of the laboratories of natural history of the State University of Iowa<sup>1</sup> is a descriptive catalogue of the myxomycetes of eastern Iowa, by Prof. T. H. McBride. Sixty-six species are described, and most of them are beautifully figured on the ten plates drawn by Miss Mary McBride to accompany the monograph. Incomplete as it may be for its own locality and for others further removed, there are many botanists who have desired to know something of the group who will welcome this work, and will thank its author for the care and labor he has expended in its preparation. We trust that it is only preliminary to a fuller and more elaborate account of the species of the upper Mississippi valley. We suggest as an improvement for the next edition, that the author carry his "keys" further, to include the species of the larger genera, such as *Trichia* and *Physarum*. It is a help to the beginner, out of all proportion to the labor it costs the author, to have some clue to the species, after he has been led by keys to the genus.

### The Missouri Botanical Garden.

The third annual report of this institution was issued about the first of June. The report of the director, Dr. William Trelease, is most interesting to those who are watching eagerly the progress of the garden, for it summarizes the improvements of the past year, certainly one of the most active since its organization. Besides the necessary work of maintenance, many repairs and improvements have been made. They have included excavating and remaking in a substantial manner many of the walks; extensive draining; resetting of edging for

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<sup>1</sup> Vol. II, no. 2, pp. 99—162, pl. 10.—June 1892.